

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A trocar for performing a procedure on a patient, said trocar comprising:
 - a. a hollow cannula having a distal end and a proximal end;
 - b. a housing having a distal end attached to said proximal end of said cannula and a proximal end having a wall attached thereto, said wall having an aperture therethrough;
 - c. a seal assembly disposed within said housing comprising a first substantially rigid ring, a second substantially rigid ring, and a plurality of ~~axially interwoven layered elastomeric members~~ separate semicircular seal segments -compressed therebetween, each seal segment having a circumference between 180 to 270 degrees.
2. (Original) The trocar according to claim 1 wherein said plurality of layered elastomeric members form a conical shape.
3. (Original) The trocar according to claim 1 wherein said elastomeric members comprise a proximal flange portion, and an inwardly extending portion extending distally therefrom, wherein said proximal flange portions are disposed between and are abutting against said rings.
4. (Previously Presented) The trocar according to claim 1 wherein said seal assembly has an outer perimeter which is attached to a flotation means.

5. (Original) The trocar according to claim 1 wherein said seal assembly includes a plurality of protectors disposed proximal to said elastomeric seal.
6. (Original) The trocar according to claim 1 wherein said layered elastomeric members are disposed such that there is a substantially centrally located aperture in said seal assembly.
7. (Previously Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) The trocar according to claim 1 wherein said plurality of elastomeric layers have a non-planar shape prior to ~~be~~ being assembled together.
9. (Currently Amended) A trocar for performing a procedure on a patient, said trocar comprising:
 - a. a hollow cannula having a distal end and a proximal end;
 - b. a housing having a distal end attached to said proximal end of said cannula and a proximal end having a wall attached thereto, said wall having an aperture therethrough;
 - c. a seal assembly disposed within said housing comprising a first substantially rigid ring, a second substantially rigid ring, and a plurality of ~~axially interwoven~~ layered elastomeric members compressed therebetween, the elastomeric members being ~~circumferentially discontinuous, arranged circumferentially about an aperture in an~~ alternating over and under pattern;

d. said first ring having a plurality of distally extending protrusions connecting the first and second rings and the elastomeric members extending from a distal surface thereof.

10. (Previously Presented) The trocar according to claim 9 wherein said plurality of layered elastomeric members form a conical shape.

11. (Original) The trocar according to claim 10 wherein said elastomeric members comprise a proximal flange portion, and an inwardly extending portion extending distally therefrom, wherein said proximal flange portions are disposed between and are abutting against said rings.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A trocar for performing a procedure on a patient, said trocar comprising:

- a. a hollow cannula having a distal end and a proximal end;
- b. a housing having a distal end attached to said proximal end of said cannula and a proximal end having a wall attached thereto, said wall having an aperture therethrough;
- c. a seal assembly disposed within said housing comprising a first substantially rigid ring, a second substantially rigid ring, and a plurality of semicircular elastomeric members ~~layered elastomeric members with circumferential gaps~~ compressed therebetween, the elastomeric members circumscribing an aperture in an interwoven pattern.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The trocar according to claim 17 wherein said elastomeric members comprise a proximal flange portion, and an inwardly extending portion extending distally therefrom, wherein said proximal flange portions are disposed between and are abutting against said rings.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The trocar according to claim 17 wherein said plurality of elastomeric layers are interwoven.

24. (Previously Presented) The trocar according to claim 17 wherein said plurality of elastomeric layers have a non-planar shape prior to be assembled together.

25. (New) A seal for a surgical access device, the seal comprising
a plurality of resilient seal segments circumscribing an aperture, each of the seal segments comprising a starting edge and an ending edge;
wherein the seal segments are arranged about the aperture such that the starting edge of each seal segment overlaps the ending edge of the adjacent seal segment; and
wherein the seal segments cooperate to seal against objects positioned within the aperture.

26. (New) The seal of claim 25, wherein the seal segments are semicircular.

27. (New) The seal of claim 26, wherein the seal segments have a circumference between 180 to 270 degrees.

28. (New) The seal of claim 25, wherein the seal further provides zero-closure.

29. (New) The seal of claim 25, wherein the seal segments are arranged in non-planar shape.

30. (New) A trocar comprising the seal of claim 25.
31. (New) The seal of claim 25, wherein the seal comprises four seal segments.
32. (New) The seal of claim 25, further comprising a first substantially rigid ring and a second substantially rigid ring, the seal segments being compressed therebetween.